

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status Of Pending Claims

Claims 1-4, 7, 17-19, 22-31, and 33-38 were pending in this application as of the Office Action mailed December 10, 2008. Claims 5, 6, 8-16, 20-21, and 32 have been canceled. The cancellation or withdrawal of claims is in no way an admission that these claims are drawn to non-patentable subject matter. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue any cancelled or withdrawn subject matter in later filed related applications.

New claims 39-41 have been added herewith.

Claims 1-4, 7, 17-19, 22-31, and 33-41 are pending and presented for examination.

Amendments To The Specification

Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out an error in the sequence listing submitted with the amendment of August 21, 2008. Applicants have noted that the amino acid sequence $X_1X_2LYQYMDDVX_3$ in paragraph [08] of the application as filed and the amino acid sequence $X_1X_2YQYMDDVX_3$ in paragraph [59] of the application as filed had been identified with the same SEQ ID NO ("SEQ ID NO:4"). This has been corrected herein. The amino acid sequence $X_1X_2YQYMDDVX_3$ in paragraph [59] is now identified as SEQ ID NO:23.

Applicants request entry of this amendment in adherence with 37 C.F.R. §§1.821 to 1.825. This amendment is accompanied by a computer readable format containing the sequences, SEQ ID NOS:1-23, and a paper copy of the sequence information that has been printed from the computer readable format.

The information contained in the computer readable format was prepared through the use of the software program "PatentIn" and is identical to that of the paper copy. This amendment contains no new matter.

Amendments To The Claims

Claim 7 has been amended to correct the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 by amending the amino acid sequence $X_1X_2YQYMDDVX_3$ to $X_1X_2LYQYMDDVX_3$. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification, e.g., in paragraph [08].

New claims 39 to 41 have been added.

New claims 39 and 40 depend on claim 7 and recite amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO:5 and SEQ ID NO:6, respectively. Support for new claims 39 and 40 can be found in the specification, e.g., in paragraph [08].

New claim 41 has been added to recite the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:23. Support for new claim 41 can be found in the specification, e.g., in paragraph [59].

No new matter is introduced by the present amendments.

Drawings

In the Office action mailed June 3, 2008, and December 10, 2008, the Examiner did not indicate whether the drawings as filed are accepted as formal drawings or objected to by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request such indication, also including amended Figure 1B, be made in the next Office Action.

OBJECTIONS

In the Office Action of December 10, 2008, the Examiner noted an error in the sequence identifier of disclosed amino acid sequences. This error has been corrected by amendment of the specification and claim 7.

Applicants respectfully request the objection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition of allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that no additional fee is required. However, if a fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fee from the undersigned's Deposit

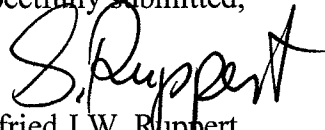
Appl. No. 10/551,405
Amdt. dated January 8, 2009
Reply to Office Action of December 10, 2008

PATENT

Account No. 20-1430. Please deduct any additional fees from or credit any overpayment to, the above-noted Deposit Account.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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